
Hands-On Mixing Workshop Outline

by Michael Dow

PRE-CLASS HOMEWORK

- Go to <http://www.churchsoundcheck.com/mag820.html> and read the following:
 - Called to Excellence
 - Seven Steps to Great Sound
 - Mixing Techniques

Session 1 – Class Mixer and System Introduction

Introduction

1. Student backgrounds and expectations
2. Course objectives - *discuss this Outline*
3. Class Hours – 9:00 – 6:00 with a lunch break @ 12:00 (*discuss lunch*)
4. Coffee and Soda
5. Our Sponsors

A. Mackie Onyx 1620 Mixer Familiarization – what every knob does

1. Onyx Front
2. Schematic overview
3. Input Channels
4. Main & Aux Outputs
5. Input and Output Jacks

Hands-On Session:

Bring UP each channel and check for proper audio.

Locate the Headphone Knob

- Remember Main fader must be up

B. Class System Familiarization

1. Aviom Digital Snake
2. BBE Compressor/Limiter Overview
3. TC Electronic M300 Digital Reverb Overview

Hands-On Session:

View the Class System Wiring

- Follow wiring to/from rack

Hands-On Mixing Workshop Outline

Session 2 – Gain Structure and EQ Use

A. Gain Structure

1. Importance of proper Gain Structure
2. Bad vs. Good Gain Structure overview

Hands-On Session:

Start your Mix by setting the Gain on each channel – Use SOLO & Meter

B. Equalizers and Usage

1. What is an Equalizer
2. Types of Equalizers
3. Mixing with 4 Band EQ
4. How to use EQ
5. Frequencies of Interest Chart

Hands-On Session:

Add EQ to your Mix

- Adjust Guitar to taste
- Fix Guitar
- Do same to vocal
- Recheck Gain after EQ is set

Session 3 – Compression and Digital Effects

A. Compression

1. Why Compression and Digital Effects
2. Compressor/limiter Uses
3. Compressor Overview
4. Compressor Hook-up
5. Class BBE MaxComp Details

Hands-On Session:

Add Compression to your Mix

- Increased guitar overloads C/L
- Too Much Ratio & Threshold causes Squashed sound
- Correct amount keeps guitar “in the mix”
- Try moving C/L to vocal, bass.....

Hands-On Mixing Workshop Outline

B. Digital Effects Processors

1. Processor Algorithms
2. Preset Programs
3. TC Electronic M300 Digital Reverb
4. Processor Hook-up
5. Class BBE MaxComp Details

Hands-On Session:

Add Reverb to your Mix

- Turn up Aux 1 on vocal & listen to reverb return on Ch 15/16
- Try Chorus on Guitar

Session 4 – Setting up a Worship Mix

A. Mixing Techniques

1. How to mix using EQ
2. Vocal Mixing techniques
3. How to do a Sound Check

Hands-On Session:

Set up a Worship Mix

- EQ each Channel one at a time – Create “Pockets”
- Bring up entire mix starting with band – then smooth back together w/ EQ
- Fix guitar after I “break” it
- Add C/L and Digital effects